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SAS/mln/23 Mar 64

MAR 24 1964

Mr. James J. Rowley, Chief
United States Secret Service
Department of the Treasury
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rowley:

In accordance with the procedure agreed upon at the meeting of March 11, 1964, we have prepared the attached series of questions dealing with Secret Service protective activities during the Dallas trip. Although some of the questions are, in form, susceptible of a simple affirmative or negative response, the Commission would appreciate instead a reasoned response to each question, in reasonable detail, and with any substantiating materials as seem appropriate.

We are in the process of working out another set of more general questions regarding protection of the President, which I would hope to send to you shortly.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Rankin
Mr. Stern
Mr. Shaffer
Files

R73-COR. 32

1. Protective Research Area.

a. Can you state more specifically than in the Hosty Report of December 10, 1963, the criteria employed in determining whether to list an individual in the FBI general files; in the "trip file"; in the "album"?

b. Were all three files checked before the Texas trip? Are the "trip index file" and the "checkout control box" cards (mentioned in the Bonk memorandum of December 3, 1963) the same as the "trip file" and the "album"? How many names were in the trip file and the album?

c. According to the December 10 report, the FBI office in Dallas gave the local Secret Service the name of a possibly dangerous individual in the Dallas area, and the Dallas Secret Service office also conducted an investigation of persons connected with the disturbance during Ambassador Stevenson's recent visit to Dallas, and obtained the photographs of some of these individuals. Have the names of these persons added to the FBI files before or after the Dallas trip?

2. Liaison Activities.

a. At the time of the Texas trip what criteria were employed in determining what information coming to the attention of other activities of the Treasury Department should be furnished to the Secret Service?

b. At the time of the Texas trip what formal or informal liaison arrangements existed, with respect to Presidential protection, with other federal, state, and local law enforcement and intelligence agencies?

3. Possible Protective Measures.

a. Admiral Kelleher has been quoted as saying that the security precautions employed in Dallas "were the most stringent and thorough ever made of . . . for the visit of a President to any private city." If this be true, what were the usual measures employed?

b. What is the explanation for the failure previously to develop a bullet-proof Presidential vehicle?

c. Had the Secret Service ever suggested to a President that an agent ride at all times in the passenger section of the Presidential car, as in a jump seat? Would this have constituted an important added safety factor?

d. Had the Secret Service ever suggested to a President that agents ride at all times on the running boards or rear steps of the Presidential car? Would this have constituted an important added safety factor?

e. What formal or informal instructions did the agents in the motorcade have regarding emergency procedures for a contingency such as that which actually occurred in Dallas?

f. Is it true that the response to the Dallas emergency developed on the spot without advance precautions such as having a doctor ride in the motorcade in a car close to the President, or having nearby hospitals on an alert status? Was it not dangerous to have taken the President and Vice President to the area location, particularly when there were closer cities or possibly greater safety to the Vice President such as the Dallas Police Headquarters?

g. At the time of the assassination, did the Secret Service have a policy with respect to the distribution of important persons throughout the vehicles of the motorcade?

h. To what extent did the Secret Service control or supervise the issuance of press credentials for the Texas trip and the Dallas visit?

4. Supervision of Secret Service

a. Describe the supervisory chain of command for the Secret Service in the Treasury Department at the time of the assassination. Did any of the individuals supervising the Secret Service have any technical qualifications in the area of, or associated with, Presidential protection?

b. Prior to Dallas, had either the Secretary or the Assistant Secretary discussed the appropriate relationship between the Secret Service and the President, with the President?

c. Prior to Dallas, had either the Secretary or the Assistant Secretary ever been asked by the Secret Service to intervene with the President to urge that a visit not be made?

d. Prior to Dallas, to what extent did the President and the White House staff inspect the activities of the Secret Service by instructions to agents, rather than to their Treasury Department superiors?